

RECOGNIZING THE
CONTRIBUTIONS OF EVE NEWMAN

HON. TOM DAVIS

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, November 18, 2005

Mr. TOM DAVIS of Virginia. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Mrs. Eve Newman for her contributions and dedicated service to the Commonwealth of Virginia.

I first met Mrs. Newman when I was a teenager working alongside her daughter, Lee, as a volunteer for the Republican National Committee. Her impressive, professional nature inspired the young volunteers she was overseeing at the time. Mrs. Newman and her husband, the late Eugene L. Newman, were longtime residents of Fairfax County and unselfishly served their community over the years. Mrs. Newman and her daughter now reside in Strasburg, Virginia, where she remains active in her community.

Over her lifetime, Mrs. Newman has held several distinguished positions and has received countless awards for her service. Mrs. Newman served as the general registrar for Fairfax County for eight years, was president of the Voter Registrars Association of Virginia, president of the Republican Women's Club and Board member of the State Board of Republican Women. With each organization, she dedicated herself fully to each cause and came up with innovative ideas to improve the organization. While serving on the State Board of Republican Women, she organized a scrap booking contest that was an instant success for a number of years. While serving as the registrar for Fairfax County, she created a tabulation system utilizing age brackets as an election prediction tool.

Her love and dedication to the Republican Party is matched by her love for the arts. She studied at the Art Institute in Philadelphia, and has she served on the Board of Directors of the Wayside Theatre located in the Shenandoah Valley. Mrs. Newman was not a board member that simply warmed a seat; she served as an active participant who contributed immensely to the theatre. Her assistance was merited in 2002 when she was awarded the theatre's highest honor, the Leo M. Bernstein Award. Mrs. Newman is also an accomplished artist; her most notable artistic contribution can be seen on each official document of the Virginia Federation of Republican Women, as she is the designer of the official seal.

On Saturday, November 20th, many from around the Commonwealth will gather with Eve at a luncheon in her honor. Mr. Speaker, in closing, I call upon my colleagues to join me in recognizing her accomplishments and applauding her for all that she has done.

TO RECOGNIZE THE 40TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE ECONOMIC OPPORTUNITY COMMISSION OF SAN LUIS OBISPO COUNTY

HON. WILLIAM M. THOMAS

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, November 18, 2005

Mr. THOMAS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the 40th anniversary of the founding

of the Economic Opportunity Commission of San Luis Obispo County (EOC), which will be celebrated on December 9th. I would like to congratulate the board members, staff and volunteers of the EOC for all they have accomplished and wish them well as they continue to serve the residents of San Luis Obispo and nine other counties in California.

The EOC is a private, nonprofit public benefit community action agency (CAA) that was designated by the San Luis Obispo County Board of Supervisors as the CAA for the County in December 1965. The EOC strives to address and alleviate poverty in San Luis Obispo County, in part through community-based programs designed to help individuals and families develop the skills needed to enhance their stability and economic independence. In addition, the EOC also uses strong community partnerships with churches, county government, and other service providers to assist the local community.

I appreciate the assistance the EOC provides to the residents of San Luis Obispo County. Its Board of Commissioners, employees, and volunteers are to be commended for their efforts, which have helped thousands of people over the past 40 years. Accordingly, I ask my colleagues to join me in congratulating the EOC as they celebrate their 40th anniversary.

REGARDING WASHINGTON STATE
PROFESSOR OF THE YEAR
BRUCE PALMQUIST

HON. DOC HASTINGS

OF WASHINGTON

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, November 18, 2005

Mr. HASTINGS of Washington. Mr. Speaker, I wish to pay tribute to 2005 Washington State Professor of the Year—Mr. Bruce Palmquist.

The U.S. Professors of the Year awards, sponsored by the Council for Advancement and Support of Education, recognize college and university professors for their excellence in undergraduate teaching and mentoring.

For over a decade, Mr. Palmquist has taught science to students at Central Washington University using innovative teaching strategies to actively engage his students in learning. He has taught his students to embrace the University's motto "by teaching, we learn." This teaching approach has motivated students to achieve a higher standard.

Mr. Palmquist recognizes the importance of access to higher education. He worked to establish a teacher education program at a community college one hundred miles from Central Washington University, so that students could more easily access higher education. Mr. Palmquist's dedication to the program and students is apparent as he travels over 200 miles per week to advise enrolled and potential students, promote the program, and help students with course work.

In a society where teachers do not always receive the appreciation they deserve, I am pleased to honor and commend Mr. Palmquist for his dedication to students in Central Washington. Mr. Palmquist is a teacher who is willing to work hard for his students, and expects his students to work hard for him in return.

To Mr. Palmquist and the professors across America that are educating tomorrow's leaders, thank you.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. TIMOTHY V. JOHNSON

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, November 18, 2005

Mr. JOHNSON of Illinois. Mr. Speaker, on rollcall No. 597, I was inadvertently detained. Had I been present, I would have voted "yea."

AZERBAIJAN ELECTIONS

HON. ILEANA ROS-LEHTINEN

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, November 18, 2005

Ms. ROS-LEHTINEN. Mr. Speaker, I appreciate the opportunity to share a few thoughts with my colleagues on recent the elections in Azerbaijan.

While the recent November 6th parliamentary elections in Azerbaijan failed to meet U.S. and international standards for a free and fair process, there were some notable improvements over the previous elections.

According to the State Department, the Government of Azerbaijan: allowed large numbers of candidates to register; provided candidates with greater access to the media; allowed exit polls and extensive monitoring by domestic and foreign observers; improved voter lists; and took other actions contributing to a more orderly and transparent vote.

However, there were widespread reports of major irregularities and fraud—including concerning vote tabulation, as well as intimidation of voters and observers—that may have disenfranchised voters in many districts.

In response, Azerbaijani leader Aliyev has, thus far, reportedly: ordered the Justice Minister to fully investigate the election results; dismissed two governors and other officials for election fraud; annulled the outcome of the elections in a fourth voting district; and is probing the results from 20 of the country's voting constituencies for possible violations.

Just this week, it was reported that Aliyev dismissed Vagif Ragimov, the governor of Zagatala, a region in western Azerbaijan near the border with Georgia, for alleged interference in ballot counting. Two days earlier, after a three-hour discussion, the Central Election Commission (CEC) reportedly canceled results in the #110 Zagatala constituency in response to reported violations in a majority of the polling stations.

Ragimov was reportedly the third governor to be dismissed for attempted vote tampering.

These are positive steps but further corrective actions must be taken. For example, investigations should not be limited exclusively to election day problems but must address reports of post-election crackdowns and suppression of dissent.

I therefore urge Mr. Aliyev to continue to work closely with the United States, the rest of the international community, and all segments of Azerbaijani society to undertake the necessary reforms to provide for a future in which free, fair and transparent elections are regularly held in a fully democratic Azerbaijan.